# OFFICE OF THE MISSISSIPPI SECRETARY OF STATE BUSINESS REGULATION AND ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF:	)	
ESTHER MINISTRIES, INC. 187 Stateline Road East, Suite 8	)	Administrative Proceeding Number: C-05-0440
Southaven, Mississippi 38671	Ś	<u> </u>
Respondent	í	

#### CONSENT ORDER

Finding it appropriate in the public interest, the Business Regulation and Enforcement Division of the Office of the Secretary of State of Mississippi (hereinafter "Division"), on behalf of the Secretary of State, having the power to administer and to provide for the Mississippi Charitable Solicitations Act, Miss. Code Ann. §§79-11-501 to 79-11-529 (Rev. 2001) (hereinafter "Act"), and Respondent ESTHER MINISTRIES, INC. (hereinafter "Esther Ministries") do hereby enter into this Consent Order (hereinafter "Order"). This Order settles all of the Division's allegations of violations of the Act.

#### I. Findings of Fact

- 1. Esther Ministries is a charitable organization located at 187 Stateline Road East, Suite 8, Southaven, Mississippi 38671. On May 31, 2005, Esther Ministries ceased its operations and is in the process of dissolution. On June 23, 2005, the Division received a letter from Esther Ministries requesting termination of its registration pursuant to the Act.
- 2. On May 4, 2005, an examiner for the Division conducted an examination of the books and records of Esther Ministries pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. §79-11-518.

During the examination, the Division found violations of the Act pertaining to charitable contributions not being applied for the purpose stated in the documents filed with the Division.

#### II. Agreement

In consideration of a final resolution of the matters set forth in the "I. Findings of Fact" above, the Division and Respondent hereby agree, stipulate and undertake as follows:

- 3. Esther Ministries acknowledges and consents to the jurisdiction of the Secretary of State as to all matters and parties herein.
- 4. Esther Ministries agrees to retain a competent, independent accountant to review its financial books and records to determine the amount of charitable contributions which were not applied for the purpose of the organization, stated as "Christ centered help to women who are suffering from the effects of sexual addiction of partners through workshops and counseling." The amount determined by the accountant will be reimbursed to the charity by its executive officers and directors as agreed among them.
- 5. Esther Ministries agrees to complete its dissolution in a timely manner and distribute its assets, including but not limited to the amount reimbursed pursuant to paragraph 4 above, according to IRS rules and regulations.
- 6. The former president and founder, Dr. Lynn Wildmon-White agrees, by her execution of this Consent Order that she will not serve as an officer or director of any Mississippi charity in the future. In addition, Dr. Lynn Wildmon-White agrees to provide the Division with a statement from her physician regarding her medical condition, including but not limited to her mental condition, which prohibited her from working at

the charity from mid-2004 to the present. The Division agrees to keep this medical statement confidential.

- 7. This Consent Order is in resolution of the Division's allegations of violations of the Act. Thus, any of the matters detailed herein will not be used as a basis for action by the Division except as set forth in Section II *infra*.
- 8. Esther Ministries recognizes, acknowledges, and stipulates that a willful failure to comply with any of the terms, conditions or obligations of this Consent Order will result in Esther Ministries being deemed to be in violation of a lawful order made pursuant to the Act and, therefore, subject to the penalties available under the Act.
- 9. Esther Ministries is aware of its right to a hearing on this matter at which it may be represented by counsel, present evidence and cross-examine witnesses. Esther Ministries hereby irrevocably waives the right to such a hearing.
- 10. Esther Ministries understands that the entry of this Consent Order represents the settlement of regulatory claims by the Division against Esther Ministries only and does not, in any way, restrict or affect the rights or causes of action, if any, of any Mississippi residents who have sustained losses as a result of Esther Ministries' actions.
- 11. It is understood and agreed that the Division retains all rights available to it and that this Consent Order is merely a settlement of those matters set forth herein.

  The Division specifically retains all rights to take such other and further action that it may deem necessary to take due to the discovery of additional violations of the Act by Esther Ministries, other than those specific violations detailed and alleged in herein.

- 12. In the event Esther Ministries fails to comply with any of the agreements, stipulations or undertakings set forth in Section II, or should any other governmental entity take action against Esther Ministries, either civil, criminal or administrative, which results in an order or judgment being issued adversely to Esther Ministries, it shall thereby knowingly and voluntarily waive any right to notice and to an administrative hearing and also waive any right to separately stated findings of fact and conclusions of law to which it may have otherwise had a right regarding the matters contained in Section I. The Secretary of State may, in his discretion, enter a Cease and Desist Order and an Order Imposing Administrative Penalty and same will automatically become final and enforceable against Esther Ministries with respect to such matters.
- 13. As to such final order, Esther Ministries hereby willingly, knowingly and voluntarily waives its right to any appeal.
- 14. This Consent Order shall remain in full force and effect from the date of execution of this Order by the Secretary of State or his duly appointed representative.

#### III. Acknowledgement

The parties acknowledge that they have read this Consent Order in its entirety and fully understand the rights, terms and obligations of each contained herein and they have been vested with the express authority to enter into this agreement. The parties further acknowledge that they have not been threatened or otherwise coerced into entering into this Order.

The undersigned hereby acknowledge and agree to the terms and conditions of the foregoing Order by written consent.

### ERIC CLARK

## Secretary of State

Dr. Lyne Widmon-White

By:	JAMES O. NELSON, II Assistant Secretary of State	Date: 198/05	
ESTI	HER MINISTRIES, INC.		
Ву:	ALLEN WILDMON Acting President	Date: 9-24-05	
DR. I	VNN WILDMON-WHITE	Date: 9-25-05	